

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. By this amendment, claims 1 through 3 are canceled from consideration. Claims 4 through 12 are now pending in the present application.

The July 28, 2004 Office Action objected to the disclosure due to informalities. In response, Applicant encloses the same substitute specification that was submitted in the parent application (now US Patent No. 6,401,415). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objections to disclosure.

Claims 1 through 3 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the § 112 and §103(a) rejections based on claims 1 through 3 are now moot. New claims 4 through 17 have been added by this amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that the scope of independent claim 4 is at least allowable because it contains allowable subject matter disclosed in the parent application. Claims 5 through 12 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 4.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number 202-496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 50-0911.

Dated: January 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Attachment